

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9515

INFO TREASURY WASHDC

ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO BY POUCH

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN MX

SUBJECT: FEDERAL-STATE AGREEMENTS

1. SUMMARY: ON JAN. 3, LOPEZ-PORTILLO AND GOVERNORS OF TEN STATES SIGNED AGREEMENTS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THIS APPEARS TO BE ONE MORE MEASURE BY JLP TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF GREATER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JAN. 3, JLP AND GOVERNORS OF TEN STATES SIGNED AGREEMENTS THAT ARE SAID TO MAKE EFFECTIVE FEDERAL PACT REFERRED TO IN JLP'S DEC. 1, SPEECH. PRESIDENT, IN BRIEF REMARKS, SAID AGREEMENTS WOULD FORTIFY EXECUTORY CAPACITY OF STATE GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE BETTER BALANCED SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. AGREEMENTS SEEM TO PARALLEL THOSE BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY GROUPS (SEE 76 MEXICO 15646), IN THAT THEY CALL ON BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO UNDERTAKE EXPENDITURE PROGRAMS THAT ARE MORE OR LESS SPECIFIC. FOR EXAMPLE, AGREEMENT WITH STATE OF OAXACA CALLS FOR JOINT

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EFFORTS IN AREAS OF POTABLE WATER, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, LOW-COST HOUSING, JAILS, RURAL AND URBAN ROADS, SCHOOL ROOMS. TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN THESE PROGRAMS IN 1977 ARE TO BE 235.2 MILLION PESOS, OF WHICH 199.2 MILLION WILL BE BORNE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. TEN AGREEMENTS CALL FOR TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN 1977 OF 2.3 BILLION PESOS. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THESE INVESTMENTS ARE ADDITIONAL TO PROGRAMS INCLUDED IN BUDGET,

OR IF THEY ARE MERELY DRESSING UP PROGRAMS IN DIFFERENT CLOTHING. WE SUSPECT IT IS THE LATTER.

4. WE DO NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THESE AGREEMENTS ON SURFACE. THEY DO NOT SEEM TO ALTER FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS IN SUBSTANTIVE WAY. WE SUSPECT THEIR IMPORTANCE, IF ANY, IS TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF MAKING STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS MORE OF TWO-WAY STREET AND LESS OF SUPERIOR-SUBORDINATE RELATIONSHIP. THIS SAME THEME APPEARS IN NEW BUDGET LAW AND PUBLIC DEBT LAW, BOTH OF WHICH OSTENSIBLY GIVE CONGRESS MORE POWER. LIKEWISE, PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR AGREEMENTS APPEAR AIMED PRIMARILY AT CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION.
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Message Attributes

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